

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant would like to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of the Office Action that was mailed on July 11, 2007. This Amendment is responsive to the July 11, 2007, Office Action. Claims 1-25 were pending. Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-18, and 21-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DE2557664; claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-18, and 21-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by NL8105929A; claims 1-5, 8-9, 11-14, and 21-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by FR2739149A; and claims 6, 15, 19, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 15 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4, 11, 13, 16, and 19 have been amended. New claims 26 and 27 have been added. No new matter has been added in conjunction with the amendments made to the instant application.

In this amendment, claims 1, 4, 11, 13, 16, and 19 were amended. Claim 1 was amended to include the elements of claim 6. The Examiner indicated claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form containing all of the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims. Claim 1 is now the equivalent of claim 6 in independent form and thus should be allowable for the same reasons as claim 6. Claim 11 has been amended to include the elements of claim 15, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten independent form containing all of the elements of the base claim and all intervening claims. Thus, claim 11 should be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 15. Claims 4, 13, 16, and 19 were amended to change their dependencies to claims 1 and claims 11, along with other minor grammatical errors as noted by the Examiner. Reconsideration of this application as currently amended is requested.

New claim 26 has been added, with new claim 27 depending therefrom. Claim 26 includes all the elements of claim 19, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner indicated that original claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form containing all of the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims. Claim 27, which depends from claim 26, corresponds to original claim 20,

which the Examiner also indicated included allowable subject matter. No new matter has been added in conjunction with the amendments made to the instant application.

In addition to the aforementioned amendments to the claims, original claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 15 have been canceled. Reconsideration and withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

NON-ART MATTERS

The Abstract has been objected to as not containing clear and concise language. The Abstract has been amended to overcome this objection. Reconsideration and withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 11-13 were objected to for containing various informalities and/or grammatical errors. Accordingly, claims 3 and 12 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4, 11, and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added to claims 1, 4, 11, and 13 as a result of this amendment. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal and reconsideration of this rejection

ART MATTERS

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-18, and 21-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DE2557664. Withdrawal of these rejections is requested for reasons that will now be set forth.

Claims 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 6, which the Examiner indicated was allowable. Claim 11 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 15, which the Examiner also indicated was allowable. Claims 2, 3, 6, 8-10, 12, and 15 have been canceled. Pending claims 4, 5, and 7 now depend from amended claim 1; therefore, these claims should now be allowable for the same reasons as amended claim 1. Claim 11 has been rewritten to be the equivalent of claim 15, which the examiner indicated was allowable but objected to for depending on a rejected base claim, in independent form containing all of the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims; therefore, claim 11 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 13, 16, and 17-25 directly depend from claim 11 and thus should be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 11.

Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-18, and 21-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by NL8105929A. Withdrawal of these rejections is requested for reasons that will now be set forth.

Claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 6, which the Examiner indicated was allowable. Claim 11 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 15, which the Examiner also indicated was allowable. Claims 2, 3, 6, 8-10, 12, and 15 have been canceled. Pending claims 4, 5, and 7 now depend from amended claim 1; therefore, these claims should now be allowable for the same reasons as amended claim 1. Claim 11 has been rewritten to be the equivalent of claim 15, which the examiner indicated was allowable; therefore, claim 11 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 13, 16, and 17-25 directly depend from claim 11 and thus should be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 11.

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11-14, and 21-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by FR2739149A. Withdrawal of these rejections is requested for reasons that will now be set forth.

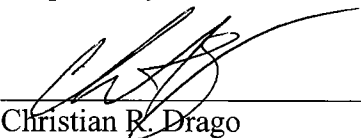
Claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 6, which the Examiner indicated was allowable. Claim 11 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 15, which the Examiner also indicated was allowable. Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, and 12 have been canceled. Pending claims 4 and 5 now depend from amended claim 1; therefore, these claims should now be allowable for the same reasons as amended claim 1. Claim 11 has been rewritten to be the equivalent of claim 15, which the examiner indicated was allowable; therefore, claim 11 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 13 and 21-25 directly depend from claim 11 and thus should be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 11.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons just set forth, applicant submits that the claims in their current state are not anticipated or obvious in view of the prior art cited by the examiner, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if there are any other matters to be discussed to further advancement of the application. If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 10174/00003.

Respectfully submitted,

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